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General Articles

THE TREND OF VETERINARY AFFAIRS*

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Since its very beginning, veterinary teaching has been drawn towards two opposing ideas. There has been a tendency to substitute for the programme of Bourgelat and Chabert, which was confined to medicine—surgery in particular—a course of studies comprising all that has to do with the economic exploitation of animals.

The Convention had a very exact and precise idea of what the "veterinary art" could and should do. It decided upon the establishment of two schools of "rural economy" and three of the six projected chairs were dedicated to "education" in management of domestic animals. Classical since Plato, and distorted from its true sense in the nineteenth century, the term denotes "all that contributes to physical progress of individuals." It comprises management of animals, that is to say, study of their production and utilisation. Hygiene and medicine (preventive and curative) constitute only one part of a whole so perfectly homogeneous that no single element can be dissociated from it.

This "education in animal-management" fits neatly into the domain of economics. It forms part—and that not the least important—of rural economy. The conception was strengthened anew by the Directory, which reserved one of the two sections of the first class of the Academy of Rural and Economic Science to veterinary science.

The "academic period" would have merely been an incident without effect on the history of the Alfort College if it had not had the happy result of bringing about the foundation of a chair of rural economy, attributed to Daubenton.

The tradition will be kept for a long time, in spite of all opposition. This teaching persisted with Gilbert, the importer of merinos, and then with Yvart, known as "le moutonnier" (sheep-like). In 1806 an Order established a chair of theoretical and practical rural economy at Alfort, and up to 1824 Yvart was conducting a course intended for "agricultural scholars."

One might say that up to this point "education in animal-management"—what we know as zootechny to-day—was incontestably in the hands of veterinarians. There was no other agricultural teaching. It was only in 1826 that Polonceau established the Royal Society of Agriculture, which formed a school at Grignon. The situation was the same in the whole of Europe. If veterinary surgeons had intensified the teaching of animal management in all countries they would have preserved their position indefinitely.

Unfortunately, a different trend was given to teaching. Up to this time medical specialisation in the colleges was more instinctive than rational. It became doctrinal with Eugène Renault.

By reason of his position and on account of his intelligence and strength of character, Renault dominated his contemporaries and imposed himself on the public authorities. Director of the Alfort College at the age of 33, he knew what he wanted and what he was aiming at. Renault sought the realisation of two ideas: the formation of a picked professional personnel and the bringing together of the two medical professions.

Only the latter point is of interest to us at the moment.

Renault deliberately separated veterinary teaching from agriculture and animal-breeding to join it to human medicine. All that was non-medical had to be removed from the syllabuses. The veterinarian was a medical man and only a medical man.

To foster this idea, Director Renault brought to bear the resources of powerful reasoning, the authority of his name and function, and, above all, an indomitable will. He met with practically no opposition among his own people, and his adversary, Inspector-General Yvart, offered only a feeble resistance. One can say to-day, after the passage of time, that with all his fine intellect, Renault committed a serious error and that Yvart "le moutonnier" with his simple common sense was right in re-establishing the chair of rural economy which had been withdrawn in 1824.

This departure took place at the precise moment when, in all countries, agricultural teaching was being established and multiplied. The agricultural theorists were eager to annex the fine territory which had been abandoned. Ill-prepared for taking advantage of it, they appealed to the veterinarians who, with a

*Reproduced, with permission, from *Revue Générale de Médecine vétérinaire* (1935.), 524, 491-496 and 525, 559-566.

disinterestedness more artless than touching, gave discreet but eager collaboration.

The veterinarians did not even reclaim the heritage of the horseman of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The stud-farms avoided them and those who ran them were allowed to display their ignorance and to commit the grossest errors with impunity, and no one dreamed of dispossessing them.

It was almost too late to regain their evacuated position when, about 1870, the veterinarians began to see the mistake they had made. In vain did Reynal try to recapture the abandoned tradition. He obtained the foundation of a new chair of zootechny in the colleges in 1878, but it was preceded by the founding of the Agricultural Institute in 1876.

A magnificent example had been given, in the meantime, of the possible rôle of veterinary surgeons in animal-breeding. In the Grand Duchy of Baden, Lydtin formed a model organisation and obtained some impressive results. The outcome was such that all South Germany—including Alsace-Lorraine after 1870—followed this example.

But this conquest went no further. The favourable moment had passed.

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It is rather difficult to predict what would have happened in France if veterinarians had kept the control of zootechnical instruction. Would the Imperial Government have entrusted the stud-farms to them and the founding of an animal-breeding service? There is nothing to prove this. Lydtin was lacking in outstanding qualities and the patronage of a grand duke which would have been necessary for the realisation of his programme. Perhaps circumstances would have been more favourable after 1870, when administrative reconstitution ended, in 1876, in the creation of a Ministry of Agriculture. These conjectures are beside the point and without great interest.

From 1850 to 1900 veterinary medicine was going through a happy phase of its history. Agriculture was rich and prosperous; the railways in no way diminished the importance of road transport; the veterinarian was firmly fixed in the country districts and in the towns he occupied an enviable position. Sanitary legislation had been elaborated which associated the whole profession with administrative action. In the Army, veterinarians achieved both the rank and grade of superior officer.

Progress continued at an increasing rate in the last 20 years of the century. The colleges in all countries possessed eminent masters whose names figured honourably beside those of the great doctors of the period. A new science arose with Louis Pasteur, and it was veterinary medicine which was going to benefit first from the application of the methods of vaccination and serotherapy.

It seemed that the twentieth century would consolidate these successes, tokens of new conquests, when an unforeseen event came to upset our professional economy. The prodigious development of the motor industry rendered inevitable, sooner or later, the total disappearance of carriages on roads and endangered the use of animal transport for any purpose.

The luxury horses disappeared first, then those belonging to transport companies. The heavy draught horses in part gave way to lorries and traction engines of all kinds. Only agricultural work will continue with any certainty to use the horse as a means of traction.

The disappearance of large town practices was undoubtedly only one of the lesser evils of the revolution, but country practice has been hit at the same time by the generalisation of the use of light transport vehicles and by the falling off in horse-breeding. Conditions of practice are modified by the facilities for travelling great distances. Practices have extended and tend to become confused. Competition has arisen which was formerly rendered impossible, and very long journeys are imposed on the practitioner.

Cavalry regiments are being formed following the lines of mechanisation applied both to traction and travel. The military veterinary corps are continuously decreasing and we are suffering by reason of this a loss of which no one can fail to recognise the extreme gravity.

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To counteract this sombre picture and the pessimistic conclusions inspired by it, we may consider recent professional achievements.

The development of sanitary organisation has brought to veterinarians a compensation which is more subjective than effective. Their participation in sanitary operations undertaken according to regulations is restricted on account of progress in prophylaxis, and there is an increasing tendency to substitute for their intervention that of a small number of specialised officers.

The hygienic control of meat represents, on the other hand, an important acquisition, capable of compensating to a great extent for the deficiencies in the use of the horse.

Brought into being in Poland* in 1844, the question of meat inspection was put forward by the work of the German parasitologists working on leprosy and trichiniasis, and then by Gerlach's book, *Die Fleischkost des Menschen* (1875), and by the *Traité d'inspection* by Baillet

*Polish law, inspired by Ostrowsky, comprises a series of regulations concerning meat inspection (*ante-* and *post-mortem*). It also includes control of fowl and fish and enumerates the diseases necessitating condemnation of milk.

of Bordeaux (1876). Bollinger's publications demonstrated the necessity for general and permanent inspection, and this view was ultimately accepted. Local inspection increased, while special legislation was enacted.

In turn all nations recognised the need for control and fixed methods and technique after this time.

In another field veterinary science has also made important progress. All the colonising nations had been compelled to call upon veterinarians to assure the preservation of animals in the region occupied or to develop the production of these animals. Departments were created which have rendered eminent service. It is interesting to note that, speaking generally, these departments have the right of self-government and that they are charged both with breeding and sanitary supervision. Only French Algeria and the Belgian Congo have kept their veterinarians under agricultural direction, and the drawbacks are very obvious.

One cannot attach very great importance to the development in recent years of small-animal medicine. Rising in England with Blaine and Youatt it concerns almost solely the large towns, and its practice, however interesting one may consider it, has only a very uncertain future. One may certainly regret the fact that veterinarians are not applying themselves more completely to satisfying both the economic interests of their clients and the sentiments of affection which a great many people show for their animal friends. John Lawrence gave them advice on this point over a century ago, and a programme which they have made a great mistake in neglecting.

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Thus, it seems to me, may be expressed in a brief summary the actual state of our professional situation; but this summing up of a present which will soon vanish in the past has no interest except to allow us to discern the possibilities of the future. That is what I shall attempt to do in my next article.

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Part II

The social importance of animal medicine can only be measured by economic standards; judged by these standards, it is subject to all the changes allowed for by variations in utility —that is to say, in the value of the capital it protects. Veterinary medicine was established from the need for safeguarding war horses and cattle for breeding purposes. Considerably later it was forced on to Governments by the need for protecting animals against epizoötic diseases of every kind. Sir John M'Fadyean has traced this development very closely and it is common to all peoples and all times regardless of any other considerations.

This statement is important at the beginning of this article—it implies the conclusion which we shall see to be so often proved: that veterinary medicine is in danger as soon as its objective ceases to be important.

Until towards the end of the nineteenth century economic changes took place slowly—they formed a continuous and generally anticipated development. The use of steam, revolutionising industry in general and transport in particular, came late enough for people to adapt themselves to the new conditions without inconvenience. The disappearance of road transport is compensated for by the increase in local traffic and the utility of the horse is in no way diminished.

More recent industrial developments have had far more serious consequences—surprising and at the same time disconcerting by virtue of their disturbing nature and the gravity, either present or future, of their consequences.

The use of refrigeration for preserving meat led to a prodigious development in animal breeding in certain countries. A new industry has been set up which constitutes a menace to those countries that rear animals in a small way, which present measures of protection cannot ward off indefinitely.

It is useless to dwell on the repercussions of the application of the combustion engine to transport. Rather must it be considered that progress in this direction will be boundless and electricity will doubtless lend itself to even more perfect and more economical application.

Whilst local wars formerly only caused momentary upset (and that confined to the participating countries) and were regularly followed by a period of economic activity common to victor and vanquished alike, the Great War has, as a result of its magnitude and length, brought in its wake such a general disturbance that we ask ourselves if the world will ever regain its former balance and peace. The movement of over-production—ill-advisedly encouraged in all countries in the post-War period—has gone on growing and growing to such an extent that Governments everywhere are powerless to check it and can only put off by costly devices the settlement which they know to be inevitable. The veterinarians suffer in the same way as the agriculturalists in the present situation and feel the same anxiety for the future. Everywhere one hears the same complaints—fees are not received regularly; all well-meaning measures are passed over or put aside; only too often measures which might be deemed almost indispensable are avoided. Undoubtedly it is a critical period—how long will it last, and shall we ever get back to the peace and freedom of former times?

Even though we are powerless to alter a situation which affects all classes of society, we

can at least look for whatever alleviations are possible.

Of all the extra-medical tasks reserved for the veterinary surgeon, that of meat inspection alone offers him an immediate interest. In practically every European country the effective organisation of control has prevented him hitherto from feeling too severely the effects of the present crisis. I do not intend to accuse anybody, but I must point out that a law passed more than two years ago imposing the generalisation of inspection in our country (France) is still not enforced, and the decree putting it into force and indeed promised a dozen times for immediate attention has still not appeared; and a new white paper, well-nigh incomprehensible, puts all question of strict regulation in doubt.

The urgency for doing something about this state of affairs (from the professional point of view—which is the only one with which I am concerned) is very evident. Up to the present, more than 30 million francs have been diverted from their legal objective and all the utterances of Parliament have remained ineffective. This violation of a professional prerogative unquestioned until now (and we fear it may not always be so) means more to us for the future than at present.

It is no use denying that veterinary medicine is entering a critical phase of its history—circumstances more serious than an economic crisis (which we hope will pass) threaten the future of the profession.

If you consider, you will see that animal medicine is essentially preventive and collective. That is the way in which it has been practised since its early days when the small number of practitioners and the comparatively low value of the animals set a severe limit to individual treatment. Then the science had but one object—the struggle against epizoötic diseases. The successes already secured here have been enough to justify the generalisation of veterinary teaching and to call on all sides for the creation of special services. This state of affairs still obtains in certain countries where conditions of breeding do not permit of isolated cases of individual treatment, and so we find, mingled in a very variable proportion, veterinarians who are Government officials, those who are working for local authorities and private practitioners working a practice.

The old Russian Empire and the Balkan States, in Europe, and the countries of South America have never had more than an insignificant proportion of private practitioners. On the other hand, in those countries with a greater population where the small farmer exists in fair numbers, the private practice has developed to such an extent that it forms the sole aspect of professional activity. The veterinarian in these countries shows himself voluntarily to be jealous of his independence and repels any idea of service in a public and official capacity.

Now the time has come when, for many reasons, the number of veterinary officers (either whole- or part-time) is still on the increase and simultaneously the importance of their service and of their position in the community is rising also. On the other hand (again for many reasons), the carrying on of private practice tends to become more and more restricted. To the causes responsible for this, such as the waning utility of the horse, are being added others, slow to show themselves, but of equal importance.

Animal medicine is primarily preventive. All new scientific developments and all established institutions have as their object the prevention of sickness rather than its cure. Now all these preventive measures which one cannot or dare not apply to mankind are all-important to the animal world.

How many times have I heard old practitioners declare that such and such a disease, common enough when they began in the profession, had completely vanished as a result of advice given over a period of years? And I know, too, of some practices in which tuberculosis has been eradicated from herds in the same way. This obscure and meritorious work carried out by veterinarians has had the result that they have destroyed the source of their own livelihood, with their own hands, as it were. You often hear it said that there are now no sick animals.

This disappearance of disease amongst animals has shown itself in the better grade circles where a veterinary surgeon has been regularly called and his advice regularly carried out. In many other circles preventive medicine and hygiene remain equally unknown, and these are those where the influence of the veterinarian is practically nil. It is in these latter cases, too, that "quackery" and animal sickness hold sway together.

These successes in animal preventive medicine offer an explanation and justification for its widespread development. You might be inclined to think that the institution of an administrative organisation concerned with looking after the health of animals is only a temporary necessity which would disappear automatically as soon as a sufficient supply of veterinarians is assured to cater for the treatment of all the sick animals. On the contrary, the universal tendency is to consider primarily the collective protection of animals, and individual treatments—isolated examples—are only an incidental accompaniment. The modern tendency to State control, or, to employ a more exact and less crude phrase, to the socialisation of veterinary medicine, is obvious daily. It is

not only in the U.S.S.R. that private practices have been abolished: in varying degrees the same thing is happening in Poland, Finland, Esthonia, Latvia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and so on. For a long time, I understand, Italy has been doing the same thing with her municipal "condotte." In Spain the establishment of the "partidos" under the auspices of the National Veterinary Association is a similar movement. The movement is too universal to spring from any but serious motives.

Interventions on the part of the veterinary surgeon are becoming more and more costly since he does not benefit in the slightest from the increased charge, which is more than balanced by the extra expenditure he incurs: long treatments are no longer the thing and rather than undertake them, it is usually preferable to sacrifice the sick animals—even horses. Insurance has never been a success under any guise. The most attractive form—that of mututal benefit—tends to a state of affairs in which the risks run by cunning and negligent people are covered by the premiums of the wise and careful ones, and this fact is liable (perhaps more than it should) to scare off people who would otherwise become insured.

Everyone is coming round to the idea of State assistance financed by fixed contributions. One cannot help but be impressed by the progress not only of the idea but also of the methods either already carried out or in process of being, to make it effective. Half of Europe to-day is full of hospitals and veterinary dispensaries run by the State. The idea is no new one: immediately after the beginning of veterinary teaching the Convention foresaw it by decreeing that the few score veterinarians released from the colleges could only do their prescribed duty, otherwise they would be prohibited from settling in country districts.

A similar movement can be seen in human medical treatment, which is progressing in the same way towards a rapid socialisation and has, indeed, in a few countries become established. The development of hospital services and the growth of various social service institutions, the demands for an adequate medical personnel, the expense of a medical training—as costly as its rewards are uncertain—are all acting in the same way to hasten a process of evolution which has by now become inevitable.

One cannot resist a social movement—one can only adapt oneself to it with the minimum of personal inconvenience. If you weigh up the gains and losses of veterinary medicine you will see that its recent acquisitions compensate for the losses it has undergone and that its place in the world is in no way threatened. The question of breeding falls on the credit side of the balance by force of circumstance only. For reasons I have spoken of elsewhere the practice of breeding is dependent on hygiene—that is to say, largely on preventive medicine. Its control cannot be kept out of the hands of the veterinarian in the near future. But there is one essential condition: the number of veterinary surgeons must be exactly proportionate to the need for them. It is overcrowding that kills the lucrative professions. Veterinary medicine has hardly suffered from this evil up to now. Whilst one might, 100 years or so ago, have deplored the lack of attraction which the profession seemed to have, one is to-day inclined to rejoice over it. At all times the overcrowding of every profession determines more and more new vocations. At the present time several countries are suffering from a professional overcrowding which makes whatever restrictions are imposed all the harder. Without quoting the example of Austria, which is the victim of special circumstances, certainly the maximum is reached in Germany in spite of the control of inspection of meat, and also in Italy in spite of an improvement following the lowering of the compulsory retiring age. In Belgium the founding of a new school is only going to aggravate an already difficult situation (559 veterinary surgeons in 1903 and 711 in 1934).

Other countries have taken adequate safeguards in one of two ways. In Great Britain it is the professional body itself which awards the diplomas and if the high standard it sets up is prompted primarily by a desire to keep up the value of the award, it must surely also be guided in its decisions by a desire to regulate the number of its members. In the United States the control over the colleges by the National Veterinary Association, although less effective, is, however, adequate, and there is no actual danger.

France is almost alone in running its colleges on the boarding-school principle and in limiting the number of pupils. It is easy to carry authority too far—to realise that, you have only to listen to the many who scoff at authority and discipline. But from our point of view the matter is quite different. The restriction of the numbers in our colleges appears to me to be a vital question. You have only to consider the medical profession and the moral and material situation arising from overcrowding of the profession to realise what would happen to our profession if we were to abandon the protection we have been granted. It is not sufficient just to recognise the principle of *numerus clausus*. Admission fees must be fixed, in accordance with the real needs of the country, by a professional authority. Clearly there is no immediate danger, for the increase in the number of students brings immediate financial conse-

quences and opposition is very limited. But let there be a period of financial prosperity and the question takes on another aspect. I well remember the pressure brought to bear on the Government ten or twelve years ago as a result of a meeting of representatives of the *Chambres d'agriculture*—an increase in the number of students and free admission to the colleges were eagerly sought by fairly plausible arguments. The Government then had to go warily and play for time to avoid irrevocable damage. The same situation can easily arise again very quickly, with even more disastrous results.

If the social value of a profession corresponds with the importance of the services it guarantees and supplies, then the consideration to which it can lay claim is measured by the consideration shown to the members of that profession. A member of any profession has the right to expect a minimum of income sufficient to enable him to live in a style worthy of his profession; he must not be driven to securing his measure of subsistence by performing dubious or criminal operations. I have seen a medical proletariat grow up in the towns and know of what it is capable. Under no circumstances can a veterinary proletariat be allowed to come into being.

It is not only a question of a selfish measure of collective security—on this point as on many others professional interest is confused with public interest. No irremediable harm can threaten the profession as long as it retains this power of adapting the numbers of newcomers to its requirements, but it will be exposed to all the dangers possible from the day when it renounces this one protection which is more precious than all it might get in return. I beg my readers to ponder carefully over this.

E. C. [Trans.]

"WHOLESALE" DISAPPEARANCE OF SHEEP

The *North British Agriculturist* states that sheep stealing is believed to be the explanation of the "spiriting away" of a large number of sheep from the farm of Bellahill, midway between Brechin and Forfar. Mr. Patrick, the owner, found that about half his flock was missing. At first he thought they had strayed, but a thorough search of his own and neighbouring farms failed to reveal the animals. A count was made, and it was discovered that no fewer than 53 lambs and 40 ewes were missing.

Closer examination revealed that it was impossible for the animals to have got out of the field themselves, for the fencing is all new. It was then found that a gate leading to a turnip field had been opened, and in the long grass the marks of the sheep were visible. The turnips had not been trampled or eaten, the sheep evidently having been shepherded along a grass bank at the side of the turnip field, and thence to a roadway where all trace of them vanished, indicating they had been lifted by a motor float or other vehicle. The loss is estimated at about £180. The matter is being investigated by the police.

THE GESTATION PERIOD OF THE CAT

W. C. MILLER, M.R.C.V.S., F.R.S.E.

In the section devoted to "Cats" in the issue of *Fur and Feather* for July 3rd, 1936, there appears a short article by Miss Evelyn B. H. Soame entitled "What is the period of gestation in cats?" Some results of matings are given which should be of interest to the veterinarian, since they are at variance with what has been not uncommonly accepted as the normal gestation period, *viz.*, about 56 to 58 days.

The article includes the results of many years of practical experience by the author herself, and she quotes others. From these it appears that there is a consensus of opinion that the average duration of pregnancy for highly-bred cats which have restricted quarters is about 65 days, while for mongrels at liberty the period is shorter.

For example: ". . . the average of 21 matings in 1921 was 65 days; of 23 matings in 1922 was 65 days, and 22 matings in 1923, was 65 days again." Again: "I have now examined the results of 20 matings this season, with the following findings:—

1 queen went 63 days; 4 queens 64 days;
8 queens went 65 days; 4 queens 66 days;
2 queens went 67 days; 1 queen 68 days."

This gives a final average of 65·25 days. The author states that she possesses several females which carry their young for 68 to 70 days without ill effects, and quotes Kirk* for the statement that kittens born as early as the 58th day may live.

A plea is put forward for help in determining "some safe and correct medical treatment by which we may confidently expect litters at the time expected."

It would seem that, quite apart from the immediate practical interest to breeders themselves, this article contributes further evidence upon a biological question of far wider scope and of very considerable scientific importance.

We may assume, and it is a perfectly legitimate assumption, that the original authors who stated that the gestation period of the cat was some 56 to 58 days, were correct in their statements for that particular time. There is little likelihood that the figures were given at random without a definite observational basis, for otherwise a figure of 60 or 65 days or any other number might readily have been used, and we must still regard with due respect the observations of past generations, carried out at a time when true experimental approaches to a problem were far more limited than at the present day. We must equally accept the observations of the modern breeders as being accurate. It would appear then that the observed duration

*"Diseases of the Cat," by Hamilton Kirk, published by Ballière, Tindall and Cox, 1925.

of pregnancy in the domesticated cat, and especially of the highly-bred show animal kept under artificial conditions, is increasing. It would be easy to dismiss the problem merely by having recourse to such time-honoured phrases as: "the result of over-breeding"; "the modifying impact of super-domestication upon fundamental reproductive physiology"; "the penalty paid by the animal to the whim of man"; and so on. But such trite statements, though possibly satisfying to the superficial mind, are almost meaningless when examined in the clear light of hard scientific reason. What, then, can be offered as a more helpful explanation?

There has been a complaint in a certain number of foxhound kennels during the past few seasons, that bitches are becoming more and more irregular in their gestation periods. Some carry their puppies two, three, or four days longer than the accepted 63 days and the pups born are not any bigger or better than those born at term; others whelp sooner than the expected date. In pig-breeding establishments, and perhaps most especially among horses, so-called "record lengths of pregnancy" are being constantly reported. It is interesting to note that evidence both on the Continent of Europe and in America is being slowly but surely accumulated to show that undue prolongation of pregnancy probably in all species can be correlated with a lowered plane of uterine metabolic activity. In other words, any reduction of the rate or level of foetal nutrition occasioned by disease, anatomical or physiological abnormality, leads directly to a prolongation of pregnancy.

In so far as the highly domesticated show cat is concerned, a survey of the methods of management reveals at least two marked differences when compared with the cat at liberty: the restriction of exercise, hunting, etc., and consequent muscular unfitness, and the comparative absence of "living" and (freshly-killed) raw food from the diet. It is a matter of common knowledge in country districts that the best "mousers" or "ratters" are pregnant and lactating females. The extra demands imposed upon the body by the off-spring have to be met by more active foraging and hunting, and a consequently richer and more vital type of food is taken.

It appears reasonable to assume that it may repay the effort to investigate the influence on pregnancy of an increase in the amount of exercise in conjunction with extra raw meat, liver, brains or other fresh animal products.

A £20,625 poultry college is to be established in India as part of the Government's "rural uplift" campaign, says Reuter. The College will be officially known as the Central Poultry Institute of Veterinary Research. It will conduct research into disease, nutrition and breeding of poultry.

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PROFESSOR J. B. BUXTON: ACTING PRINCIPAL OF THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

As anticipated in our brief comment on the announcements made in our last issue, the appointment of Professor Buxton to succeed Sir Frederick Hobday as head of the Royal Veterinary College has given hearty and widespread satisfaction to members of the N.V.M.A. and the veterinary profession in general. All combine to wish him well in the difficult task that lies ahead of him.

Born in 1888, James Basil Buxton has had the special advantage of being associated from birth with veterinary matters, his father having a considerable practice, which his younger brother still holds, at Highgate. Among these opportunities, the sons early showed keenness in observation and interest in practical work, which was a visible and just source of pride to the father. He qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in December, 1910, and soon displayed an urge not to rest content with the educational achievements of his qualifying career, as unfortunately happens with many who have shown high promise in their early training. In 1910 he took the Diploma of Veterinary Hygiene at Liverpool University and passed the examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and afterwards became Lecturer in Hygiene and Stable Management at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, until 1912. In that year, he was appointed Veterinary Superintendent at the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories, Beckenham, Kent. This was a new post created by the munificent benefactor of medical research who has recently died, Sir Henry Wellcome; it was his (Wellcome's) shrewd sense of the ultimate value of the benefits likely to accrue from the brilliant team of investigators privately financed by him that caused him to deem their labours would be frustrated unless a properly qualified veterinarian were appointed member of the staff. In this well-remunerated appointment, where he remained for nine important years of his career, Mr. Buxton was encouraged by his employer to develop his genius according to his natural bent, and, moreover, he came into intimate personal contact with a number of distinguished fellow-workers—Dr. (now Sir) Henry Dale and others—destined later to occupy

the highest places in the world of medical research. This association, we can be sure, was also highly appreciated by the other workers for it enabled them to gain an insight into the value to medical research of trained veterinary collaboration which prosecuted further was soon to prove immensely fruitful. Then, with the outbreak of war, Buxton was retained to continue uninterrupted the services of high national importance in which the laboratories where he was employed became engaged, and during the time he could spare he threw his energies into the work of keeping alive the old established veterinary societies which were threatened with extinction owing to the absence of large numbers of their members on active service. He overcame at this time the ingrained prejudices prevailing among the older members of such societies against what they had formerly regarded as the pert activities of very youthful members, and these much older men who remained at home came to regard him as a genuine helper. He met criticism of his contributions with good temper and restraint, and the first big step in his advancement may be dated from his election at an unprecedentedly early age, in 1920, as President of the Central Veterinary Society; this was how the Fellows at that juncture chose to express their estimate of his endeavours.

Meanwhile, in 1919, at the annual meeting of the N.V.M.A. held to resuscitate this association after the war years at the Royal Society of Arts, Adelphi, where at a meeting held in 1881 this association had come to birth, the plan was mooted by the President, Dr. Bradley, to reconstitute it on a much wider basis, with certain specified aims and objects for the advancement of the profession, affiliate to it the existing independent veterinary societies, and acquire its own journal to state its policy and disseminate the views of its members. The plan was no doubt conceived on the model of the British Medical Association, but it is really doubtful whether it would have succeeded (as it has, in the event, magnificently) if Mr. Buxton had not been available centrally in London at the inception of the plan to throw all his youthful energies into the work of organisation as Honorary Secretary. The task of editing the official organ, which was acquired by purchasing Hunting's journal, the *Veterinary Record*, was entrusted to the highly-esteemed veterinarian, John Malcolm, of Birmingham, who had just retired from active work. He died suddenly, however, before the first number was produced, and Basil Buxton had to arrange for the production of the first numbers by the help of Dr. J. T. Edwards until some relief was obtained by the appointment of a paid editorial representative. Those who were drawn by him to throw in their endeavours on behalf of the National at that time were impressed by a young man who was businesslike, obtained unobtrusively what was required by them for their work, trusted them, and stood by them.

The Medical Research Council, which had come into existence just before the War and rapidly expanded its activities during the War largely through the able Secretaryship of the late Sir Walter Fletcher, had decided to centralise research at a National Institute for Medical Research, which was founded at the old Mount Vernon Hospital, Hampstead. Dr. H. H. Dale was appointed first Director, and several of his colleagues at the Wellcome Laboratories migrated with him, including Buxton, who was given the post of Director of the Farm Laboratories. These splendid laboratories were planned and equipped by him at Mill Hill, and several projects of research and advisory work commenced, including work upon distemper research out of funds collected by *The Field* newspaper and upon tuberculin testing for the Tuberculin Committee of the Medical Research Council.

He was soon called away, however, to fill an important new vacancy elsewhere and recommence the work of building special laboratories and equipping them—the third experience of this kind in eleven years. Following upon the recommendations contained in the Prain Report (1921), funds were allotted on the advice of the Development Commissioners for the endowment of a Chair of Animal Pathology at Cambridge and the provision of a staff and laboratory for research. The candidates suitable and available in the veterinary profession at that time were very limited and there was much apprehension lest this important new post should be filled by someone outside the profession. At some sacrifice, Buxton saw his way to accept the appointment (1923) and his popularity at the time caused much gratification in the profession at the announcement. To execute research he cast round immediately for the most promising young veterinarians under training in research, confident in his judgment that their early veterinary training would ultimately ensure more beneficent results in the field of veterinary pathology than would be forthcoming from the more immediately productive efforts of inadequately grounded workers recruited outside the veterinary profession. He was given

valuable support in his endeavours by the late Sir Clifford Allbutt.

Concurrently, while in occupation of this new post and enthusiastically organising its development, he continued his services on behalf of the profession in general. He had been elected a member of the Council, R.C.V.S., in 1920, and became Chairman of the Examinations Committee in 1925, and in this capacity undertook at once work upon the extension of the course of study and revision of the curriculum to its present form. This work, together with attendance upon numerous committees, often necessitated almost daily travelling to London. One of his outstanding triumphs in organisation was achieved as Honorary Secretary of the Eleventh International Veterinary Congress, 1930. He was elected President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1932, and his year of office was a notable one in several respects, which included the launching of the new curriculum, and not the least memorable in the minds of many will be the recollection of his speech of presentation, at the Annual Meeting of that year, of the Honorary Fellowship to his distinguished surviving predecessor in the Principalship of the Royal Veterinary College, Sir John M'Fadyean.

In our appreciation, the value of Professor Buxton's contributions as a research worker must not be overlooked: we need only mention his work in devising the double-intradermal tuberculin test and propagating its employment as the current mode of testing cattle for tuberculosis employed by most veterinary surgeons in this country; his work on the utility and proper system of applying the B C G method of vaccinating calves against tuberculosis; standardisation of tuberculin; researches on caseous lymphadenitis in sheep. His main claim to recognition in the field of research, however, rests not so much on his independent performances as an experimenter as on the capacity he has shown to organise facilities for the execution of research and on his ability to interpret the veterinary standpoint in research to official authorities and to workers in contiguous and overlapping fields. Under his direction, aspiring research workers have been lightly guided to put forth to the full in productive effort what lies within their natural powers, unchecked by the cramping effect which is sometimes the result of subservience to the domination of a towering intellect.

Professor Buxton took a prominent part in founding the Veterinary Research Club. He was President of the Comparative Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1935-36. He was awarded the Steel Memorial Medal, R.C.V.S., 1934, and the Victory Medal, Central Veterinary Society, 1923; and, at the meeting of the N.V.M.A. held at Llandudno, in 1934, he was very fittingly the recipient at the same time as Principal Bradley of the certificate of Honorary Associate. He had been President, N.V.M.A., in 1925. We need not detail the important committees upon which Professor Buxton has served, which include the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Committee since its inception in 1924, the Departmental Committee (the Lovat Committee) appointed by the Colonial Office to enquire into the veterinary services in the non-self-governing dependencies; committees on Tuberculin and Distemper, Medical Research Council.

Sufficient has been said to indicate that Professor Buxton's record is one of good augury for his success in his new appointment. We cannot close, however, without a word of tribute to Mrs. Buxton, who throughout her husband's career has shared in the fullest degree his ambitions for the advancement and general welfare of the profession.

SOUND CLYDESDALE HORSES

Commenting on the summary of the results of the operations of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland in the administration of the Horse Breeding Act, 1918, during the period November 1st, 1935, to July 31st, 1936, recently issued by the Department, the *North British Agriculturist* says: "These figures are all the more interesting as comparisons are also given for the past ten years. Two gratifying features of these returns are the evidently careful observance of the purpose of the Act, which was to promote soundness of constitution amongst our breeding stallions, and the further feature that the figures disclose a continued wonderful development in Scotland's Clydesdale breeding industry. The number of applications for licences for Clydesdale stallions was the largest for the past ten years. The number of licences applied for was 498, compared with 453 in 1935, and 442 in 1934. As a matter of fact, applications have been going up steadily during the ten years referred to. The number of licences issued was 482, a total of 16 being refused. The fact that so many were refused would naturally point to the increasing care which is being exercised in the interests of breed soundness. Breeders generally will be interested to note that five of the 16 refusals were for whistling or roaring; four were rejected for defective genital organs; two each for sidebone, stringhalt, and shivering, one for cataract, but none for ringbone or bone spavin. To what extent in-breeding may operate in the encouragement of faults it is difficult to say, and quite another question is how far the lack of complete soundness may be affected by the absence of an examination test for breeding mares, as well as stallions. Admittedly, however, the stallion test must be recognised as serving a useful purpose."

Clinical Communication

GRASS DISEASE IN ESSEX

A. M. WYLIE, M.R.C.V.S.
Grays, Essex

I have recently encountered in the County of Essex, a case of grass disease, and I think the following will be of interest to members of the profession, especially to those practising in the south-eastern counties of England. The case is still more interesting in that an actual case has never been confirmed in East Anglia.

Subject.—A six-year-old grey hunter mare in very good condition, with no previous history of any illness. She had been running at grass for about a month and was first seen to be ill on May 24th. Veterinary advice was called for on May 29th and I attended the mare on that day.

Symptoms.—The most outstanding symptom which attracted my attention was the very deep yellow coloration of the visible mucous membranes. The pulse was hard and the rate increased to 60 per minute. Temperature was normal. Examination per rectum revealed a small quantity of hard faeces, the mucous membrane clinging tightly to the arm and leaving a distinctly catarrhal sticky covering when withdrawn. The presence of a few round worms (*Strongylus tetracanthus*) was also noted. Twitchings of the muscles of the flanks and shoulder were noticed and a diphtheritic membrane was visible in the nasal mucous membrane.

Diagnosis.—At this stage a definite opinion was not given, and a prognosis was wisely avoided.

Treatment.—The treatment adopted at this early stage was to relieve the constipation by a full dose of physic (aloes 8 dr.); bran mashes were recommended and the mare was taken from grass and returned to the stable.

After two days had elapsed I revisited the case and found each already described symptom more apparent. A further physic ball was given as there had been no result from the first one, and this operated in 24 hours, the faeces being small in quantity and hard in consistence. About this time I noticed the gradually-increasing "tucked-up" appearance of the abdomen and a very great difficulty in swallowing; each attempt to swallow was accompanied by a muscular spasm. Sweaty patches now appeared on the flanks, tail, neck and sides of the ribs. A few blood clots were expelled from the nose, and the mare began to hang her head, and stood with all her feet under the body presenting a very dejected appearance.

The latter symptoms aroused my suspicions as to grass sickness, and I asked Mr. Grant, Senior Veterinary Assistant to the Essex County Council, to examine the mare, he having had five years' experience of grass sickness in the north of Scotland. On June 7th the mare was examined by Mr. Grant accompanied by Mr. Medlock, Chief Veterinary Officer to the Essex County Council, and myself. The opinion arrived at was that the case was one of grass sickness, and Mr. Grant maintained that the abdomen had contracted rather more rapidly than in cases he had encountered in Scotland.

The nervous symptoms were now more apparent, the difficulty in swallowing had increased and the patchy sweating could be more readily seen. The mare carried her head low and sighed frequently but did not exhibit acute agony. She would become quite bright when other animals passed the loose box and seemed to be interested in everything around her. She ate very sparingly and the "tucked-up" appearance became rapidly more marked.

Many drugs were tried without avail and the mare gradually wasted and died on June 23rd, the illness lasting 31 days.

Post-mortem.—This was carried out by Mr. Grant and myself and showed the usual *post-mortem* lesions found in grass sickness cases. The contraction of a portion of the colon was easily seen when the abdominal wall was opened. On cutting into the lumen of the bowel, the amount of inflammatory change evidenced in the thickness of the bowel wall was very marked. The mucous membrane was highly inflamed and corrugated, the inflamed condition spreading into other parts of the colon. The liver was enlarged and showed some hepatitis. No other lesions were found, but, as already mentioned, round worms were present. It was our opinion that the worms were not sufficiently abundant to cause any constitutional disturbance.

Conclusion.—I have come to the conclusion, after much thought, that this was an actual

Abstracts

[Vaccination Against Johne's Disease. Hagan, W. A. (1935.) *Cornell Vet.* **25**, 4, 344.]

This article is of considerable interest to those who are engaged in the study of this disease.

The author outlines the histology of the disease and refers to the work of Vallée and Rinjard (1926 and 1934) who reported that the subcutaneous injection of Johne's bacilli in cattle, in their experience, did not produce the disease and conferred some degree of immunity in most cases, the only deleterious result being the production of nodules at the site of inoculation. These authors recommend the vaccination of cattle by this method and state that by 1934 many animals in France had been vaccinated with apparently satisfactory results.

The author has injected Johne's bacilli, suspended in mineral oil, subcutaneously and obtained a high degree of allergic sensitiveness. He mentions that often he obtains larger intradermal reactions with these beasts than with those naturally infected.

In his first experiment he took 20 calves, from two to six months old, from herds believed to be free from Johne's disease. All were negative to the tuberculin test. Of this group ten were vaccinated and ten left as controls.

Four vaccinations were given to each calf at an interval of six months. The vaccine consisted of living two-months-old cultures on slants of a synthetic medium, the constituents of which are not mentioned, to which was added a heat-killed culture of *Myc. phlei*. Six strains were used and all had been cultivated artificially for from one-and-a-half to five years. The cultures were washed off in saline and centrifuged; the deposit was then ground up to form an even emulsion in fresh saline, recentrifuged, and the final deposit mixed with sterile paraffin oil; 1 c.c. of the mixture containing 50 mg. of moist organisms was given to each calf. The first two vaccines consisted of this mixture but for the last two, 5 c.c. of saline was substituted for the oil.

These first two vaccines were found to cause considerable oedema at the site of inoculation, followed by cold indurated swellings which persisted after six months, some being four inches in diameter. A number of these swellings had soft centres which later burst, discharging a yellowish oily pus containing acid-fast organisms. An attempt to cultivate these organisms failed. The lesions proved, on *post-mortem* examination, to consist of connective tissue.

On the substitution of saline for oil the reaction was much smaller, the site of inoculation being unobservable after six months.

After the first vaccination all the calves were allowed to run in a paddock, previously occupied by diseased cattle, with an open shed as shelter.

About one month after the first vaccination four calves, three non-vaccinated and one vaccinated, were drenched with material obtained from a freshly killed clinical case.

Two months later a cow suffering clinically from the disease was admitted to the paddock as an additional source of infection and when she died of the disease seven months later the calves were turned out with the main herd, containing several infected beasts. To ensure adequate exposure to infection, at eight, nine-and-a-half and twelve-and-a-half months after the commencement, infected intestinal scrapings varying from 20 to 100 grammes in amount, repeated on two consecutive days, were fed to all the calves mixed with dry food.

After two-and-a-half years the experiment was terminated.

In the vaccinated group at this time, four beasts were in good condition, five in fair condition and one showed clinical evidence of the disease.

On *post-mortem* examination, six of this group showed no macroscopic lesions of disease, but four of these showed some evidence of infection microscopically; three showed moderately advanced lesions, and one showed well-advanced lesions. (It is not mentioned, however, if this was the beast which received the original drench).

In the control group four had died before the conclusion of the experiment, at the 8th, 15th, 19th and 24th month after exposure to infection, two of these being beasts that received the original drench. Of the six remaining, three were in good condition, one in fair and two in poor condition, one of which was emaciated and scouring.

On *post-mortem* examination, the four that died all showed advanced lesions of infection and of the others, two showed well-marked lesions of infection, one slight lesions, and three showed no lesions, two of which had not reacted to the allergic test on five occasions.

The author assumes from his experiment that in cases where exposure to infection may be

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case of grass sickness. Mr. Grant agrees and maintains that had such a case occurred in the north of Scotland displaying the symptoms already described, identical with cases occurring in the north, there would be no doubt at all as to the correctness of the diagnosis.

. . . . .

A few photographs of the mare were taken during the course of her illness, and from which the marked wasting which occurred could be readily appreciated. One of these is reproduced herewith.

severe, vaccination may be of some assistance, and notes that some beasts may have a natural resistance to the disease.

B. B.-J.

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[Length of Incubation Period in Infectious Abortion in Cattle. Wall, Sven (1934.) *Skand. Vet.-tidskr.* **24.** 8. 453-484.]

This article contains an English summary and the tables also have English headings. The author gives details of 124 cases and the length of the incubation period in each case. There were three separate series of observations. The last percentage in each case refers to the results of experiments in which the animals were artificially infected by intravenous inoculation.

The incubation period was found to vary from as little as 11 days to as long as 180 days. It was between 31 to 60 days in 33, 40 and 42 per cent. of cases; less than one month in 13, 16 and 26 per cent. of cases; and more than two months in 41, 42 and 47 per cent. of cases. Within the period three to six months the distribution was as follows: 91 to 120 days in 18 per cent. of cases; 121 to 150 days in 7 per cent. of cases; 151 to 180 days in 7 per cent. of cases. The incubation period rarely exceeded 181 days, only 3 per cent. of natural cases in the author's experience taking longer to develop the disease.

The author considers that the length of the incubation period is of significance in determining the source of infection in a herd, and that in practice the incubation period may be said to lie within 14 to 180 days.

D. L. H.

ADVANTAGES OF COMPULSORY HERD RECORDING

Addressing the annual conference of the Agricultural Education Association, held recently at the West of Scotland College of Agriculture, Mr. J. Hunter Smith advocated local or national schemes for the control of disease and efficient milk recording as the only way to secure progress in the formation of a sound breeding policy in the country's dairy herds. He urged that there should be compulsory recording of progeny and production in every case when herds get any State support, and emphasised the need for very full particulars being submitted by sellers of dairy bulls. Pedigrees and records should give every detail: "There must be no omissions or subterfuges."

Dr. A. C. McCandlish, of the West of Scotland College, said that if Mr. Hunter Smith referred to English recording he was right. "The English system is the world's worst!" he declared.

* * * * *

The decision of the Smithfield Club that "all sheep must be exhibited uncoloured and unoiled" will be generally welcomed. Smithfield is primarily a butchers' show and certainly there is no justification for dressing up sheep for this occasion. There are many who think that the Royal Agricultural Society and other show societies might, with advantage to the sheep industry, make a similar rule.—*Farmers' Weekly.*

Report

CITY OF LIVERPOOL

SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1935

The work of the City of Liverpool Veterinary Department consists chiefly of:—

(1) The management and maintenance of the Health Committee's stud.

(2) Veterinary attention to horses, pigs, poultry, and other animals, of the several committees of the Corporation, and the supply of food and litter, harness, and shoeing to other departments.

(3) Supervision of various aspects of cattle and the city's milk supply.

(4) Administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts.

(5) Management of the departmental farm.

A vacancy in the professional staff of the department was filled by the appointment of an assistant veterinary officer, who commenced duties on April 23rd.

On January 1st, 1935, there were 246 horses in the stud. During the year, 54 were disposed of and a similar number added, the stud therefore remaining at the original figure at the end of the year. Out of a total of 20 entries made at various shows throughout the country, the Corporation horses gained eight first, four second, five third and two fourth prizes.

Approximately one-fourth of the total milk supply of the city is produced within the city boundaries, the remaining three-fourths being sent in from country districts. It is estimated that the cattle population of the city comprises 3,300 cows in milk, with a number of bulls, stores, young stock, and dry cows. Licensed cowsheds number 246, with provision for 4,615 cows. During the year, 34 cases of tuberculosis of the udder and three cases "giving tuberculosis milk" were detected, in addition to various other forms of scheduled tuberculosis. Of the 37 cases, 16 were found on routine examination, three reported as suspect by the respective owners, and 18 detected as a result of bulk samples of milk taken by the Medical Officer of Health's Department proving tuberculosis. Forty-one bulk samples of milk were referred to the department as tuberculous, resulting in the detection of 15 cases of tuberculosis of the udder, three cases of "giving tuberculous milk." In 18 cases, no affected animal was detected, samples taken proving negative to the biological test. Seven cases were still under investigation at the end of the year. The actual calculated incidence of cows with tuberculosis of the udder or giving tuber-

culous milk during the year is 0·93 per cent. Each milking cow in the city is estimated to have been examined by the veterinary officers three times during the year.

The total number of cows slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925 during the year was 66, involving the examination of 1,295 animals. Of the 66 cases, 52 were found on *post-mortem* examination to be "advanced" and 14 "not advanced," within the meaning of the Order.

There are one Certified and 45 Grade "A" milk producers in the City.

During the period under review, 66 farms were notified to the County Authorities concerned, under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, as having sent into the City milk which proved tuberculous. Two thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine animals were involved, and as a result of examination, 51 cases of tuberculosis of the udder were detected. In 23 cases, no cow affected with tuberculosis of the udder was found, although the contamination was proved to have been eliminated. Fifteen cases were still under investigation at the end of the year.

One hundred and sixteen visits were paid to farms supplying milk to the Corporation Hospitals and Institutions, involving the examination of 6,390 cows.

No cases of glanders, foot-and-mouth disease, rabies or sheep scab occurred during the year. A dairy cow affected with anthrax and two horses with parasitic mange were dealt with. Until June 10th, 1935, when it was revoked, the Lancashire Swine Fever Infected Area Order of 1934 imposed restrictions on the City. Four cases of swine fever occurred in City pigs; 24 suspicious cases were investigated but were found to be negative. In nine cases, pigs sent in for slaughter from outside districts were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as suspicious of swine fever.

The following numbers of livestock—14,347 cattle, 67,454 sheep and 2,109 pigs—were exposed for sale at Stanley Cattle Market. What amounted to an abuse of the legitimate trade in old and worn-out cattle for slaughter engaged the attention of the department during the year, certain cattle of several consignments sent in to the market or abattoir from various parts of the country being definitely unfit for travel by reason of disease and general debility. Representations were made to the railway companies concerned and to the local authorities at the points of origin, with the result that no further cause for complaint was given.

Although the report was not completed when the deeply regretted death of the late Chief Veterinary Officer, Mr. A. W. Noel Pillers, F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., F.R.S.E., occurred on April 2nd, 1936, it was mainly compiled under his direction.

Veterinary Society Report

NEW ZEALAND VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Embargo on British Livestock Denounced

The thirteenth annual general meeting of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (Incorporated) was held in Wellington on the 25th and 26th of June, 1935. Twenty-eight members were present and Mr. H. S. S. Kyle, M.P., occupied the Chair.

Mr. L. J. Wild, M.Sc., B.A., Principal of the Agricultural High School, Feilding, and President of the Royal Agricultural Society, formally opened the meeting and addressed the members.

He spoke of the wealth of the stock population and the lack of any centre in New Zealand for the training of veterinarians to look after the health of that stock. He also considered that there should be some parent body linking all the various small scientific bodies such as the Veterinary Association, the Grasslands Association, Refrigeration Society, etc., into one, so that the parent body could voice the scientific opinion of the country on any one subject as it became necessary. Such a parent body might very well be the Royal Agricultural Society.

Mr. Kyle, in his Presidential address, spoke of the importance of the profession in the economic social structure of the Dominion.

Subjects brought up for discussion in the form of remits were (1) The embargo on animals from Great Britain and the importance of educating the farmer to have such an unfortunate position altered. Discussion of this subject, which was brought forward by Colonel H. A. Reid, *O.B.E.*, F.R.C.V.S., D.V.H., F.R.S.E., resulted in all but one member voting for the lifting of the embargo at the earliest possible moment.

Colonel Reid, who was formerly officer in charge of the New Zealand Government's research station at Wallaceville, said it was two years since his return from England and the embargo situation was much more serious now than it was then. The present Government in New Zealand was sympathetic, as was the last Government, but was more or less kept in a paralysed attitude by members of the farmers' unions, who constantly objected to anything being done to remove the embargo.

No question was of greater economic importance to New Zealand than this embargo, which for eleven years had closed the door to the free entry of British livestock. It was important, not only by reason of the effect it was having on the quality of New Zealand-bred stock—which might be a controversial question—but also because it was bound to be a prominent

factor influencing future trade agreements with the Mother Country. The embargo aimed at preventing the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease. How far it had achieved its objective could best be judged by veterinarians, who, with their knowledge of that disease, its symptoms and period of incubation, coupled with the drastic policy of the British Government, entailing total slaughter and destruction of all affected and in-contact animals, were in a position to assess its true value in this respect.

No veterinary surgeon with full knowledge of the facts would hesitate to decide that the embargo had fulfilled no useful purpose and that, more especially since the establishment in 1928 of the London quarantine station—which afforded a complete check upon even a remote chance of a diseased animal being admitted to the station itself or into importing countries—its continuance could not be justified. Since the station was opened more than 3,500 animals had passed through it without a single case of foot-and-mouth or other disease occurring before or after shipment. New Zealand, despite its remoteness, which was in itself an efficient safeguard, was the only country in the world to maintain this prohibition.

There was no more vital political question, said Mr. Kyle, seconding the motion. Either New Zealand was wrong on the question and the rest of the world right, or the reverse was the case. It was imperative for New Zealand to listen to the advice of its veterinarians. The British people were demanding a better system of reciprocity and New Zealand was the only Dominion closing its doors against British stock.

Mr. W. Peirson, a member of the association council, opposed the motion. Moneyed interests were trying to remove the embargo, he said.

Mr. A. H. Cockayne, Director of Agriculture, referring to the danger of retaliatory measures, said he felt Britain would have a right to take such steps, but they knew in their own hearts she would not. If the embargo were at all unfair, which Great Britain claimed it was, then one of the unfair points which New Zealand sheltered behind was the knowledge that England, though she had the right, would not retaliate.

(2) The registration of draught stallions. This was considered to be a necessity and every effort to assist the Clydesdale Society in getting the necessary legislation before the House was promised.

(3) Tuberculin testing and tuberculosis in cows supplying milk for direct human consumption. In connection with this, it was decided to assist the Municipal authorities in their efforts to have cows supplying towns tuberculin tested.

Several papers were presented:—

(1) "Treatment of Distemper with Vaccine Virus by the Dunkin-Laidlaw Method," by W. M. Webster, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.

(2) "Virus and Virus Technique," by L. W. N. Fitch, B.V.Sc.

(3) "Entero-toxaemia and Indigestion in Lambs (Pulpy Kidney)" by A. Leslie, F.R.C.V.S.

(4) "Paspalum Staggers in Cattle," by C. S. M. Hopkirk, D.V.Sc.

(5) "Horses in Modern Warfare," Captain I. H. Clifton, Staff Corps.

This last paper was perhaps the most interesting in that it was outside the usual type presented at meetings of the Veterinary Association. It resulted in a general discussion regarding the breeding of light horses in the country and a description by Colonel Hewitt, late of the Indian Army, of arrangements now being made to try and get the assistance of Racing Clubs and the Government for such breeding.

A luncheon was held on the second day at which Dr. C. J. Reakes, *O.B.E.*, D.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., was presented with a set of cutlery as a mark of esteem from his colleagues upon the close of his career as Director-General of the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Reakes was also made an honorary life member of the Association.

Office-bearers of the Association are as follows:—

President.—Mr. H. S. S. Kyle.

Vice-President.—Mr. W. C. Barry.

Council.—Messrs. J. McIlwaine, D. A. Gill and W. Peirson.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.—Mr. C. S. M. Hopkirk.

C. S. M. Hopkirk.

NOISY DOGS "DE-BARKED"

"Sydney dogs will have to keep quiet in future, or they may be 'de-barked,' states the *North British Agriculturist*. "This method was described by Councillor Henderson at a meeting of the Sutherlandshire Council (New South Wales) when complaints against noisy dogs were being considered.

"Councillor Henderson explained that recently the barking of a number of dogs worried the patients in a Sydney institution. The owners did not want to lose their dogs, but something had to be done. Finally the dogs were operated upon, and now they cannot bark. The vocal cords of the dogs were severed.

"'It is quite a painless and harmless operation, and the dogs suffered no ill effects afterwards,' added Mr. Henderson, who stated that its performance was restricted to qualified men.

"A better solution of the problem of the noisy dog in a noisy world was brought to Sydney by Mr. E. G. Pryce, who has just returned from a world tour. He states that dogs have been bred without a bark. This remarkable achievement took place in the Soviet's 40 acre experimental station in the Ukraine, where intensive work has been going on with the cross-breeding of various animals.

"Describing the animal, Mr. Pryce said that it was a cross between a dingo and a Siberian wolf-hound. It had a much keener scent than either, and could not bark."

ANIMAL DISEASES RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

DR. J. RUSSELL GREIG'S REVIEW OF WORK IN PROGRESS

The activities of the Association were reviewed a short while ago at the annual meeting held in Edinburgh, when emphasis was laid on the need for expansion of the staff and of the general facilities for the work. The serious losses sustained from grass sickness in horses this year were given great prominence and steps for collecting additional funds were considered.

Dr. Russell Greig, Director of Moredun Institute, gave an account of the work in progress, and we reproduce the following extracts from his observations.

Tick-Borne Fever

The nature of the causal organism of tick-borne fever continues to be the subject of special study. It will be remembered that the cause of this disease was demonstrated in this Institute some few years ago, but it has not been possible to identify the organism concerned, as it does not fall precisely into any recognised classification.

The organism lives only for a short time outside the animal body and there is evidence that it may be related to the South African disease, "heart water." Larval ticks have been engorged upon affected sheep and the infected ticks have been sent by air mail to the Onderstepoort Laboratory, South Africa, where, after being moulted to nymphs, they will be allowed to infect experimental sheep. In this way, the Scottish and the South African diseases will be compared.

Braxy-Like Diseases

In recent years, it has become obvious that considerable losses in older lambs and also in adult sheep are annually experienced by flock-masters from a braxy-like disease—braxy-like in that it runs a very short course and terminates fatally. The disease is distinct from braxy and we have found that it is constantly associated with a specific toxin. Research on this problem is being conducted in correlation with the Braxy Committee of the Agricultural Research Council, but there is urgent need for an extension of these investigations in Scotland.

Scrapie

The systematic microscopic examination of the tissues in scrapie, which was commenced in 1932, has now almost reached completion. No constant abnormality has been observed, with the exception of certain cellular changes in the central nervous system. The significance of these cannot yet be assessed, but, so far, they have not been found either in normal sheep or in sheep suffering from diseases other than scrapie. It may be ultimately found that they represent a characteristic feature of the disease, in which case a definite advance in the investigation of the scrapie problem will have been made.

The field experiment designed to test whether scrapie can be transmitted through the medium of infected pastures, is still under observation, and, although interesting results have now been obtained, it is not yet possible to express any definite opinion whether the disease can actually be transmitted in this way. The question is one of great importance, since, if a positive answer were obtained, the field of inquiry would be considerably narrowed down.

Contagious Bovine Abortion

The research which is being undertaken by the Association on contagious bovine abortion has as its ultimate object the development of effective methods of prevention by means of dead vaccines. A systematic study of the protection afforded to small animals by various immunising agents has been in progress for the last three years. Much information of a valuable nature has been gained and whatever the ultimate result, the research will put us in possession of more exact knowledge upon the development of the disease and of the nature of its response to immunising agents than we have hitherto possessed.

Pine

The investigation of pine as it occurs in certain of the western islands showed that the disease was a nutritional anaemia, in which the administration of iron appeared to be of specific preventive and curative value. There was evidence that a similar condition occurred in certain areas on the mainland of Scotland, and the result of further investigation has proved that an extensive affected area exists in the neighbourhood of the Cromarty Firth.

With the collaboration of the East of Scotland College of Agriculture, the condition known as "Cheviot" or "Border pine" has been investigated in Roxburghshire, and the evidence suggests that this condition also represents a form of chlorosis, which responds readily to the administration of assimilable iron compounds.

Milk Fever in Cows

The adoption by veterinary practitioners of the method of calcium therapy as a specific curative and preventive treatment for milk fever appears to have markedly extended during the year, especially among American and Continental veterinarians.

White Scour in Calves

Under the Scottish Board of Research in Veterinary Science, controlled field experiments designed to determine the preventive effect of vitamin A in white scour in calves have been organised during the year, and the assessment

of vitamin A in the colostrum of cows maintained under various systems of management is being carried through.

Enzootic Abortion in Ewes—Magnesium Metabolism—Solway Pine

The subject of enzootic abortion in ewes continues to be investigated, and extensive field experiments this year again have been in progress. The research of a fundamental character into the subject of magnesium metabolism, with special reference to its association with lactation tetany in dairy cows, is being continued, while observations on that form of pine in lambs which occurs in the region of the Solway Firth have been initiated.

Lamb Dysentery

Lamb dysentery serum to the amount of 80,000 doses has been issued this spring. This represents a marked increase over last year's issue, which amounted to 68,000 doses. The results obtained were excellent.

Braxy

Of the single-dose braxy vaccine, 64,000 doses were this year issued by the Institute. This again represents an increase over the issue of the previous season, which amounted to approximately 51,000 doses. The single-dose vaccine appears to be satisfactory in that it is capable of reducing the mortality figure to less than 1 per cent., but, on those farms on which braxy occurs in high virulence, it is desirable to practise a double vaccination.

Louping-Ill

The results of the controlled field tests of louping-ill vaccine carried out during the last few years have been so satisfactory and consistent that this year it was considered justifiable to issue the vaccine wholly as a commercial product. Many flockmasters have reported that the vaccine has effected the disappearance of the disease from their flocks and, although 55,000 doses were prepared, the demand has far exceeded the supply. The preparation of the vaccine involves costly and laborious procedure, and the Institute has been much handicapped by the limited personnel available to cope with the demands for its production.

A large volume of work of a diagnostic and advisory character has been carried out on behalf of veterinary practitioners and stock-owners.

Grass Sickness

For the last three years a line of research has been followed which has as its object the incrimination of certain toxins which have been found to be present in the bowel in a proportion of acute cases of the disease. This year, as in previous years, a field station has been established in Augus under the supervision of Dr. Gordon.

Grass sickness must be regarded as one of the most important problems which confront the Scottish agricultural community. It is a serious menace to agriculture, in that it not only causes ruinous losses, but seriously disorganises arable farming. Further, it shows no sign of abatement—indeed, the reverse is the case—and there is now evidence of its extension into parts of the country in which it was hitherto unknown.

Notes and News

The Editor will be glad to receive items of professional interest for inclusion in these columns.

Diary of Events

August 24th.—Meeting of the Editorial Committee, N.V.M.A., at 2, Verulam Buildings, Gray's Inn, W.C.1, 4 p.m.

Sept. 14th-18th.—N.V.M.A. Annual Congress, Scarborough.

Sept. 21st, 22nd.—Jubilee Memorial Bursary Examination.

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N.V.M.A. CONGRESS AT SCARBOROUGH

Outstanding Success in Prospect

On page 1025 we publish the completed programme for the Annual Congress of the Association to be held at Scarborough in September, while among the advertisement pages will be found the ticket sheet, which all those who intend to be present at the various functions are urged to return duly completed not later than the date stated thereon, as thereby the work of the Local Secretary will be made very much easier.

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Mr. E. F. McCleery, who occupies that onerous office, sends us the following message:

"The arrangements in connection with the 1936 Congress at Scarborough are progressing very satisfactorily and everything points to this being a very successful and enjoyable function. A very good selection of papers has been chosen which are representative of all branches of the profession and we have been fortunate in arranging with Professor Nils Lagerlöf, who is coming over specially for the Congress, to give a lecture and lantern demonstration on the latest methods employed in dealing with 'Sterility.'

"The Royal Hotel, which has been chosen as the headquarters, is now completed and all the social functions will be held in that building, including a civic reception and dance at the invitation of the Lord Mayor, etc., on the evening of Monday, 14th, the President's reception on the Tuesday, the annual banquet on

N.V.M.A. Congress at Scarborough, September 14th-18th, 1936

PROGRAMME

The following is the Programme of the Association's Congress, to be held at Scarborough from September 14th to September 18th, 1936:—

Sunday, September 13th—

8 p.m.—Informal "At Home" (Royal Hotel).

Monday, September 14th—

10 a.m.—Civic Welcome by the Mayor of Scarborough (Public Library).

10.30 a.m.—Opening of Exhibition of Surgical Instruments, Drugs, etc., by the President. (Harrison Room, Public Library).

11 a.m.—Paper: "Hysteria in Dogs," by Mr. H. R. Hewetson, M.R.C.V.S. Discussion to be opened by Major F. Chambers, *O.B.E.*, F.R.C.V.S. (Public Library).

8.30-12 p.m.—Civic Reception and Dance (Royal Hotel).

Tuesday, September 15th—

10 a.m.—Paper: "Enzootic Abortion in Ewes," by Professor J. Russell Greig, Ph.D., M.R.C.V.S. Discussion to be opened by Captain T. J. Bosworth, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. (Public Library).

11 a.m.—Paper: "A Consideration of the Accredited Producers' Scheme of the Milk Marketing Board," by Major D. S. Rabagliati, *O.B.E.*, B.Sc., F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. Discussion to be opened by Mr. H. W. Steele Bodger, M.R.C.V.S. (Public Library).

3 p.m.—Operations and Demonstrations (Corporation Stables).

8.30 p.m.—President's Reception (Royal Hotel).

Wednesday, September 16th—

10 a.m.—Paper: "The Detection of the Tuberculous Cow," by Captain H. L. Torrance, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. Discussion to be opened by Mr. J. S. Steward, F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. (Public Library).

11.30 a.m.—Paper: "Some Observations on the Use of Vaccines in the Protection of Cattle against Tuberculosis," by Mr. R. E. Glover, B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. Discussion to be opened by Mr. H. G. Lamont, M.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. (Public Library).

11.30 a.m.—Meeting of Ladies' Veterinary Benevolent Guild, at the Royal Hotel.

12.45 p.m.—Congress Photograph.

2.30 p.m.—Council Meeting (Public Library).

3.30 p.m.—Annual General Meeting (Public Library).

7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.—Annual Banquet (Royal Hotel).

Thursday, September 17th—

10.30 a.m.—Address and Demonstration on "Sterility in Bulls," by Professor Nils Lagerlöf of Stockholm (Public Library).

2 p.m.—Excursion to Ravenscar *via* Olivers Mount, Hackness, Harwood Dale, etc., with tea at Raven Hall Hotel, Ravenscar.

8 p.m.—Dance in aid of the Ladies' Benevolent Guild (Royal Hotel).

Friday, September 18th—

10 a.m.—Paper: "A General Consideration of the Disease Conditions mentioned in the Horse Breeding Acts," by Professor W. M. Mitchell, *M.C.*, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., M.R.C.V.S. Discussion to be opened by Major Brennan DeVine, *M.C.*, F.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., F.R.SAN.I., and Major A. A. Pryer, *D.S.O.*, M.R.C.V.S. (Public Library).

3 p.m.—Closing Meeting (Public Library).

the 16th and the dance organised by the Ladies' Benevolent Guild on Thursday, 17th. The hotel is beautifully situated and modern in every way; it contains a fully equipped gymnasium, which will be at the disposal of delegates attending the Congress, and a room overlooking the sea has been set aside for the use of the ladies.

"The alterations to the Public Library have now also been completed and the lecture room is ideal for our purposes. The Harrison Room in which the Trade Exhibition will be staged should prove a very big attraction since, apart from the interesting display of veterinary equipment which will be on view, the room itself contains one of the largest collections in the world of the heads of various animals.

"The operations and demonstrations will take place at the Corporation Stables, which appear to be admirably suited for the purpose, and a very large display has been arranged in this section.

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"On Thursday, September 17th, a short motor tour has been arranged which covers some of the most beautiful scenery in Yorkshire and those attending will partake of tea at the Raven Hall Hotel, Revenscar, which is delightfully situated and where delegates will be able to enjoy various amusements. A swimming pool will also be available at a moderate fee.

"Arrangements for the usual golf tournaments have been made and the competitions will be held on the Filey course on Thursday, September 17th. Those intending to play are advised to communicate early with Captain R. Simpson.

"The management of the headquarters hotel have undertaken to make all the necessary arrangements for parties who wish to visit the theatres, take sea trips, play tennis or even indulge in riding, so that there are ample opportunities for all attending to indulge in their favourite pastime.

"It is earnestly hoped that the members of the profession will make every possible effort to support this Congress and so make it a complete success."

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R.C.V.S. OBITUARY

Dowland, Kaye John Stuart, Captain, R.A.V.C. (T.A.), 43, Friars Lane, Lincoln. Graduated London, July 18th, 1912; died August 8th, 1936, aged 45 years.

The Late Captain K. J. S. Dowland

We regret to record the death, at the early age of 45 years, of a prominent member of the profession who had a distinguished career in veterinary work, particularly in India, in Captain K. J. S. Dowland, of Friars Lane, Lincoln, who passed away in the Bromhead Nursing Home, Lincoln, after an operation following an attack of appendicitis.

Captain Dowland had been in Lincoln since September, 1930, when he took over the business of Hartley and Son, veterinary surgeons.

Qualifying in London in 1912 at the Royal Veterinary College, London, Captain Dowland served under the old Board of Agriculture. He was in the Army Veterinary Corps throughout the War, serving in France and Salonika.

After the War Captain Dowland went to India, where he was professor for three years at Lahore Veterinary College. He then went to Meerut, where he had a big racing and polo practice, and also acted as starter at Meerut races, an important meeting. He did a good deal of veterinary work for the Meerut races and for the Calcutta Turf Club. Captain Dowland was himself known as a rider on the flat, over hurdles, and in steeplechases.

In 1924 he was commissioned to take the Maharajah of Jodhpur's polo ponies to England, where they were used in games in 1925. After a successful season he returned to India with the ponies. The Maharajah then expressed a wish for a veterinary department and this was organised by Captain Dowland.

Captain Dowland was a captain in the Auxiliary Reserve of Officers, Indian Army, and since returning to England had accompanied the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry to their camps as veterinary officer. His predecessor in the practice, Mr. Charles Hartley, was also veterinary officer to the Rangers, and was accidentally killed while in camp.

At Lincoln Captain Dowland had acted as veterinary surgeon to Lincoln and Burton race meetings, and to the Lincolnshire Red Shorthorn Society. He was also local veterinary inspector to Lindsey County Council. He was veterinary surgeon to the Burton Hunt and was a member of the Hunt and a regular follower. He leaves a widow and one son and one daughter.

The funeral service took place at Riseholme Church, the interment being in Riseholme Cemetery, in deference to Captain Dowland's wish that he should be buried near the Riseholme kennels.

The service was conducted by Captain Dowland's brother-in-law, Rev. G. Hodgshon, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the Rev. A. E. Jackson, rector of Riseholme.

Six sergeants of the Lincolnshire Regiment formed a guard of honour, and a bugler of the regiment sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille." The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and on it rested Captain Dowland's cap, sword and medals.

The family mourners were: Mrs. Dowland (widow); Mr. F. W. Hodgshon, of Cullercoats, Northumberland (father-in-law), and Mrs. Hodgshon; and Mr. C. R. Marshall, Hertford (brother-in-law).

Among those who attended the service were the following members of the veterinary profession, all of Lincoln and neighbourhood: Captain A. Logan, M.R.C.V.S., Captain H. Walpole, M.R.C.V.S., Major A. N. Foster, *O.B.E.*, F.R.C.V.S., Mr. T. J. Keall, F.R.C.V.S., Mr. F. R. Slinger, M.R.C.V.S. (Mr. Dowland's assistant).

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GENERAL OBITUARY

Mr. Thomas R. Hewer

The many friends in the profession of Captain and Mrs. J. R. Hewer, of Swindon, will be deeply grieved to learn of the sad loss which they have sustained in the death of their eldest son, Mr. Thomas Radbourn Hewer.

Mr. Hewer, who was only 25 years of age, and who was employed in Reading by Great Western

Motors, was taken suddenly ill and died in a nursing home on Thursday, August 6th. A tragic circumstance is the fact that, on August 12th, Mr. Hewer was to have been married at Sonning to Miss Vera Blance Gibbs, of Woodland Avenue, near Reading, and their new home at Erleigh was all in readiness for their return from their honeymoon.

Many colleagues and friends attended the funeral at Swindon Parish Church and the sad procession was watched from the windows of his home—The Grange—which overlooks the churchyard, by members of the household staff.

Mr. J. R. Baxter, M.R.C.V.S., represented the Royal Counties Veterinary Medical Association.

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HORSE-DRAWN TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Sir J. Moore's Protest

The intention of the Minister of Transport to make regulations restricting the use of certain London streets by slow-moving traffic, including horse-drawn vehicles, has evoked a strong protest from the National Horse Association of Great Britain.

The case for horse as against motor transport is submitted on their behalf by Major-General Sir John Moore in a pamphlet issued by the association on Thursday of last week.

"The whole question of horse versus mechanical employment," he writes, "resolves itself into a matter of expense, and whatever is cheapest is surely the best. The present agitation threatens the very existence and livelihood of a large number of horse-vehicle owners, small traders, horse keepers and carmen. There is room for both horse and motor transport in the common activities of life and in the carrying out of industrial undertakings. . . . It is essential that the right of using the most economical form of transport should be available to all organisations in the interests of trade and industry."

Discussing the problem of traffic congestion, Sir John Moore states: "Considering that it is the great increase of motor traffic, both in numbers and volume, which has brought about the present state of traffic congestion, it is questionable whether the abolition of horse transport would effect any material change. The solution of the problem is far removed from the horse question."

There could be no question, he maintains, that in the common commerce of large cities and towns the horse and horse transport were most adaptable, handy, convenient, and reliable. Any interference with the use of the horse for transport would disorganise the work and throw into unemployment many thousands of drivers, horse foremen, and stable hands. These men were semi-skilled workers and would obviously have the greatest difficulty in finding employment again in these days. In addition, there were the many skilled workers who depended for their livelihood on supplying the needs of the owners and users of horse transport, such as shoeing smiths, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, horse dealers, saddlers and harness makers, veterinary surgeons, corn merchants, hay and straw dealers, together with the producers of corn, hay, and straw. Hundreds of thousands of people must depend on the continued use of the horse for their living.

Horse breeding, whether for commerce or pleasure, was an integral part of agriculture, and the failure of the country to make full and proper use of the horse in every sphere would be fraught with disastrous consequences. A conservative estimate of the number of industrial horses in Great Britain was 200,000, which at an average of £40 per head per annum for feeding provided a market for £9,000,000 to £10,000,000 worth of agricultural produce.

Long distances by road and heavy haulage were not the *métier* of the horse and were best left to mechanism. But the short haul in towns was peculiarly the province of the horse.

Compiled and detailed statements of comparative costings of horse versus motor transport supplied by 14 municipalities and 14 commercial firms in the Metropolis and the provinces showed that for the ordinary trade of cities and towns—in distributive and manufacturing trades, cartage of goods, and in the work of local authorities—the horse was much cheaper than the motor on a daily computation of work and working within a radius of from four to six and sometimes eight miles.

We heartily commend the suggestion, put forward by the National Horse Association, that members of the veterinary profession should approach their member of Parliament forthwith, seeking to enlist his aid in putting forward the "case for the horse" on the lines indicated above, and his sympathy with the protest against the proposed restrictions.

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VICTORIA VETERINARY BENEVOLENT FUND

The Secretary begs to acknowledge receipt of further donations in memory of Professor Macqueen from the following:—

R. E. C. Bullen
Central Veterinary Society
Charles Roberts
Royal Counties V.M.A.

Total received £29 16s. 0d.

August 12th, 1936.

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LEGAL NOTES

Attempted Bribery to "Dope" Greyhounds.—Allegations that interference with racing greyhounds was a prevalent practice were made in Glasgow Sheriff Court recently when William McCourt, a Glasgow commission agent, pleaded "Guilty" to attempts to bribe a trainer at a Glasgow track. McCourt was fined £300, with the alternative of six months' imprisonment. Denis Bonar, who was accused with him, and was described as a "catspaw," was fined £25, with the alternative of 60 days' imprisonment.

The charges to which McCourt and Bonar pleaded "Guilty" were that on various occasions between April 16th and 24th, 1936, they corruptly offered £5 in respect of each dog interfered with as a gift or consideration to a trainer in the employment of Glasgow Albion Racing Company, Limited, Broomloan Road, as an inducement or reward for his interfering with the true running of dogs belonging to his employers, then under his charge and competing in races to be held at the Albion Greyhound track.

McCourt and Bonar further pleaded "Guilty" to corruptly giving to a trainer £5 to interfere with the true running of two dogs named Delaglace and Late Jack, then under his charge and competing in racing at the Albion Greyhound Racecouse, by administering to the dogs a mixture containing respectively liquorice, sulphur, potassium, bromide, and morphine, and liquorice, sulphur, and morphine.

The prosecutor, Mr. J. D. Strathern, referring to the mixture specified in the charge, said that the capsules, if they had been administered, would at least have had the effect of slowing down the dogs.

Mr. Strathern detailed the transactions and conversations which it was alleged took place

between McCourt and Bonar and the trainer whom they wished to bribe. The matter was reported to the management and the police, and steps were immediately taken. The trainer did not dope the dogs and he told McCourt of that. After that the police arrested McCourt and Bonar.

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Errata.—We regret that, in the report of the May meeting of the Lancashire Veterinary Association, published in our last issue (48. 33. 1002.) the observations made in reference to the late Captain A. W. Noel Pillers were wrongly attributed to the President, Mr. C. F. Shawcross, whereas the member who paid tribute to the memory of Captain Pillers on behalf of the Division was Mr. E. H. Curbishley, of Alderley Edge.

In connection with this report, also, Mr. Gladstone Mayall writes: "An Irish paper recently stated that a British soldier was wounded by a *pullet*. In your account at page 1003 of last week's 'Record' I am stated in two places to have mentioned the *Drove* fly. The fly mentioned was the *Drone* fly, which is quite a well known object to the country practitioner."

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ARMY PROMOTION EXAMINATION

It is notified in an Army Order that the periods of Military History selected for the year 1938 are as follows:—

Majors, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, in subhead (*k*) (*viii*) for promotion: The veterinary services with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, 1917, as described in the Official History of the War, Veterinary Services, pages 181-221, 251-76, and Chapter XXXVI.

Correspondence

Letters to the Editor should reach the Office not later than by the first post on Tuesday morning for insertion in following Saturday's issue.

All correspondence must bear the name and address of the contributor for publication.

The views expressed in letters addressed to the Editor represent the personal view of the writer only and must not be taken as expressing the opinion or having received the approval of the N.V.M.A.

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"SOUND IN WIND AND EYES"—"A GOOD HUNTER"

To the Editor of the Veterinary Record

Sir,—It would appear that I have offered myself as a target to be shot at—but the type of fire returned is rather oblique in character. I have had a considerable private correspondence on the subject matter of my letter of July 13th—some for and some against my own opinion.

I invited the opinion of members of the profession solely on "a horse should not be warranted a 'good hunter' or certified by a veterinary surgeon 'sound in wind' if the heart is abnormal." Those letters appearing in the *Veterinary Record* by Mr. Railton and Lieut.-Colonel Rees-Mogg do not express any opinion at all on the question contained in my letter. If Mr. Bloxsome will re-read that letter he will find that I disagree with the policy of a veterinary surgeon, acting on behalf of a vendor, granting a certificate "sound in wind" when at the time of examination he knows the heart to be abnormal. This state of affairs is unfortunately fairly common. Some veterinary surgeons may retaliate by saying that they are only employed to examine "wind and eyes" and certify accordingly—making no mention of an unsound heart.

At horse repositories these certificates are open to public inspection and if a horse certified "sound in wind"—but without mention of the existing unsound heart—is purchased, it surely does not enhance the prestige of the profession with the horse-owning public who are becoming very knowledgeable, when the unsound heart is discovered; more particularly when the vendor's veterinary surgeon admits that he did not examine the heart. A medico-legal question may become involved.

My contention is that the functions of the respiratory apparatus and the heart are physiologically and pathologically associated—and therefore the heart must be examined before certifying "sound in wind."

With special reference to Lieut.-Colonel Rees-Mogg's letter, I do not claim to be an equine cardiac specialist, or to have any more knowledge of the cardiac abnormalities than the average examining veterinary surgeon. I do, however, venture to suggest that it is possible—after careful examination of the heart—to diagnose with a fair amount of accuracy some of the abnormalities. By virtue of his appointment, Lieut.-Colonel Rees-Mogg should have more opportunities of following up cases than a practitioner like myself. Insurance companies are very much alive to this question in relation to bloodstock 'chasers and hunters.

I have found the study of the heart most interesting when applied to "examination for soundness" and have had the opportunity of co-operating with a member of the medical profession—a breeder and owner of hunters, whose opinion on heart conditions I very much value. I have been able to follow three cases (property of above) to the kennels and purchased for observation, where *post-mortem* confirmed diagnosis. One case was that of a point-to-point mare which, after being taken out of training on account of her heart condition, bred two foals.

Perhaps, however, allowing a mare with a heart condition to breed involves another controversy.

Yours faithfully,

J. Cochrane-Dyet.

"Craven Lodge,"
Melton Mowbray.
August 17th, 1936.

The Editor acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of the following:—

Communication from Mr. W. A. Dykins (Durban), Mr. F. T. Harvey (St. Columb), Professor W. Kearney (Dublin), Major D. S. Rabagliati (Wakefield), and Lieut.-Colonel J. Wakefield Rainey (Toowoomba, Queensland).

Reports of meetings of the following Divisions, N.V.M.A., from their respective Hon. Secretaries: Dumfries and Galloway, Mid-West, North Wales, and Southern Counties.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holborn Surgical Instrument Co., Ltd., of 26, Thavies Inn, Holborn Circus, London, E.C.1, will be pleased to send to any reader of the *Veterinary Record* who may be a prospective customer, a copy of their new Veterinary Catalogue. No trouble or expense has been spared to make this handsomely-produced volume as complete as possible: there are over 1,000 admirable illustrations.

This is the only comprehensive veterinary catalogue that has been published in England for many years and it should prove most useful to veterinary surgeons as a book of reference. The cover has been made conspicuous, so that the book may be easily picked out from a bookshelf.